Bar Hill News

June '03 No. 399

BAR HILL SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
FETE DAY

28th JUNE 2003

SOCIAL CLUB
2.00pm-5.00pm
Rosie Val &The Cambridge Jazz Band

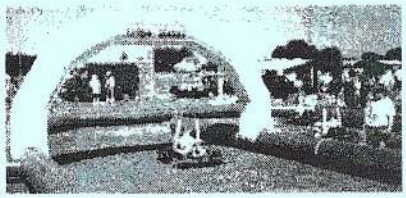
VILLAGE HALL
8.00pm-11.30pm
60s Night & Barbecue
DANCE TO
Running On Empty
TICKETS FROM SOCIAL CLUB £5
MEMBERS ONLY

Residents' Association Village Fete.
Saturday 28th June
from 2pm on theVillage Green
Many attractions with a Caribbean Theme
Don't miss it!

Bar Hill School Fun Day

Saturday 21st June
1:00pm - 5:00pm

Children's stalls
Children's Fun Races
Giant Inflatables
Quad Bikes
BBQ & Licensed Bar
Raffle



Please come along and help us to raise money to resurface the all weather court.

Coffee and Kids Charity Day

7th June 2pm/4pm at the Octagon

Table top sale
Bouncy castle
Balloon modelling
Face painting and much more
To book a table top £5 please call Lisa on 201160

Copy date for the next issue is 15th June to Martin Avery at bhneditor@yahoo.com or see page 2 for other contact details

Bar Hill Residents' Association

03/04 Committee

Chairman	Mr R Hall	**780304**	11 Almond Grove
Vice-Chairman	Mr M Avery	**781233**	34 Acorn Avenue
Secretary	Mrs M Shubotham	**781553**	14 Hillcrest
Treasurer	Mr R Iyer	**200910**	56 Oatlands Avenue
BHN Editor	Mr M Avery	**781233**	34 Acorn Avenue
BHN Adverts Co-ordinator	Mrs B Waters	**201421**	77 Foxhollow
BHN Distribution Co-ordinator	Mr R Iyer	**200910**	56 Oatlands Avenue

Plus - V. Evans (49 Foxhollow - **780403**), B. Garrett **789550**, P. Hubbard **201270**, J. Hubbard **201270**, R. Iyer (56 Oatlands Avenue - **200910**), D. Reynolds **200571**, E. Wilmer.

The Objectives

The objectives of the Association are to act as an intermediary between the Residents and other parties, to keep Residents informed of matters of importance and recreation in and around the Village, and to promote the interests of Bar Hill. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association.

This is a private publication and may not be reproduced in any way without the permission of the Bar Hill Residents' Association committee.

BHN Contributions

What ? (see insert)	Cost ? (per month)	Who, where, how ? (see above)	When ? (in month)
Commercial '¼ page' Ads.	£12	Adverts Co-ordinator	1st of previous
Commercial 'Maxi' Ads.	£5	Editor	15th
Commercial 'Mini' Ads.	£2.50	Editor	15th
Articles, 'What's On', 'For Sale', 'Lost & Found'	free	Editor	15th

All items are included at the editor's discresion and are dependant on space being available

The '¼ page' adverts are for local businesses and we guarantee that they are always printed. This often results in a 'waiting list'. To overcome this we provide 'mini' and 'maxi' adverts that we use as 'fillers' for the text pages and do not guarantee their inclusion due to restrictions on the number of pages we can produce. Any item can be submitted electronically via Microsoft Office files on disc or over the net via **bhneditor@yahoo.com**.

Anonymous letters cannot be published, but names and address may be withheld at the Editor's discretion.

All telephone numbers without an area code are Crafts Hill (01954)

HEALTH CENTRE

TELEPHONE 780442
HEALTH VISITORS - 781855

Dr Hassan, Dr Ranasinghe and the Practice Nurse

Surgery hours are Mon-Fri 8.30-12.00am & 2.00 -6.00pm

	Day of week	AM	Day of week	PM
Physiotherapist	Monday	8.40 onwards	Tuesday	3.00 onwards
Midwife			Monday	2.00 onwards
Child Health Clinic			1st and 3rd Fridays	2.00 onwards
Chiropody	Wed, Thurs & Fri	9.00-12.00	Thursday	2.00-5.00
Dietitian	1st Tuesday	9.30-12.30		
Orthoptist	2nd Tuesday	9.00-12.30		
MacMillan Nurses			Friday	2.00 onwards
Psychiatric Nurse			Wednesday	2.00 onwards
CAMTAD	4th Tuesday	9.00-11.30		

OUT OF HOURS 'EMERGENCIES' Telephone 01223 464242

Useful telephone numbers

BHN (Editor - Martin Avery)	781233
BHN (Commercial adverts - Bunty Waters)	201421
Church (Revd. Gary Renison)	781629
Conservative Party (Iris Lay)	205265
Health Centre	780442
Liberal Democrat Party (Tom Flanagan)	780571
Library	273318
Parish Council (Leigh Baffa)	780456
Police (PC Kevin Misik)	01223 358966
Pre-School Playgroup	206179
Samaritans	01223 364455
School	273305
Social Club	206117
Sunshine Pre-School	789099
Swavesey Village College	230366
Village Hall	206179

BAR HILL
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Birthday celebrations,
Children's parties,
Jumble sales,
Conferences,
Seminars,
Training days,
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Anniversary celebrations
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Supporting Bar Hill!
206179

Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those held by the Residents' Association Committee. Alternative viewpoints are always welcome but anonymous letters will not be printed. The Editor reserves the right to withhold names and addresses where appropriate.

Dear Editor,

Having read District Councillor Roger Hall's article "Wheelie bins for Bar Hill" and the frequently asked questions, published in the May edition of the B.H.N. I am concerned with the accuracy and less than honest answer to the question "Why is the council changing from sacks to wheeled bins?" where it is stated, "The council is also changing to a wheeled bin service as part of wider directives from the E.U. etc."

E.U. directives only state what must be recycled. There is NO E.U. directive that states wheeled bins must be used as a method of waste collection prior to recycling and disposal. It is S.C.D.C., NOT the E.U. who will be imposing wheeled bins on Bar Hill irrespective of resident's wishes and the problems of storing and handling that such bins will create. Examples—Properties with

1) No side entrance to rear gardens
2) No front gardens
3) Steps leading to front doors directly from the road
4) Groups of houses/flats with only communal car parking spaces
5) Houses without garages
6) Elderly residents having difficulty handling wheeled bins either all or a combination of the above.

Other aspects to consider.

a)A mini crime wave would be created through vandalism, theft or bins thrown into the stream as happens with Tesco trolleys.

b)Who pays if bins are stolen or vandalised?

c)Bins left outside houses on a permanent basis will look unsightly.- Look at some parts of Cambridge City.

Some of your Parish Councillors have looked at the residential areas of the village to identify roads and properties where potential problems could exist. Their findings have been sent to S.C.D.C asking for a site visit a.s.a.p.

Yours faithfully

Michael Boughton-Fox.
93 Hollytrees

Dear Editor

I have known Roger Hall for many years and know of his interest in Bar Hill and efforts to make it a better place for its residents.

I agree with his concerns for the reduction in book borrowings from the local library but I think that the need for libraries to survive in their present form is more complex.

I do not use the library very much now -the major reason is that my needs are meet by Mr Google and the internet,which I can contact and search and get up to date information and facts -day or night at the touch of a search button.

Tesco -The Newsagent etc have a wide range of books at very reasonable prices and of course the range of book clubs and special magazines is enormous. Amazon's web site is but one reference I use to check on books I may seek -----and it takes but seconds to access.

Some homes have more than one computer and the cost of wide band and the speed of web transactions is such that I cannot see how in the future the need for libraries in the present form and the lack of cash to run them will make local closures impossible, without some dramatic changes in organisation and purpose.

In fact I do not think it will be long before libraries will only exist as long as the skeletons of legislation are met by local councils.

Regards

Mike Fiske, 32 Oatlands

This is the first of an occasional series of readers' favourite recipes. Please send yours to the Editor and they will be considered for publication as space is available.

Cheese Biscuits

4oz Plain white flour
4oz Self-raising wholemeal flour
5oz Hard margarine
6oz Grated cheese (very tasty Cheddar)
1 Medium egg, beaten
1 teaspoon Worcester Sauce
Salted peanuts
1 teaspoon dry mustard
Onion salt (to taste)
Black pepper (to taste)

Beat the egg with the Worcester sauce and put it on one side. Sieve the flour together with the mustard and onion salt into a mixing bowl. Rub in the margarine. Shake in some black pepper. Add the grated cheese and mix it all together, adding enough of the egg mixture for it to cling together (about half the egg, keep the rest for later). Knead together and roll out thinly (about 1/8 inch). It's easier to roll if you split the mixture and roll 1/4 at a time. Cut into small squares using a ruler and a pizza-cutter. Brush the tops with the remaining egg mixture, press half a peanut onto each square and brush with egg again. Bake on baking sheets lined with non-stick baking parchment. Cook towards the top of a hot oven Gas 7, 200C or 180C Fan. Cook for 8 minutes then swap the trays around and cook for a further 5 minutes. Check carefully as these can scorch easily.

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Sports & Social Club

Our membership draw now takes place every other Saturday night with the draws this month being on the 14th & 28th. As I write this column the jackpot sum stands at £325. This must be won, and £25 will be added to the total after each draw until it is. We have also started a spot prize membership draw which takes place after the main draw; so even if the main jackpot prize is not won, then the smaller prize will be won by somebody in the club that night. To be eligible to win either draw you must be in the club on draw night and be in possession of your current membership card, no card no prize.

We are all eagerly awaiting our annual beer festival which as normal will take place over the Fete weekend, with hopefully up to 12 real ales including a mild ale being available over the weekend. Also on Fete Saturday we will be having Rosie Val & The Cambridge Jazz Band to entertain us during the aftenoon, please note that we welcome non members to our club during this day so do come and see us: who knows you might like what you see.

Later on in the day we are holding a Barbeque and 60's evening with dancing to Running on Empty, this will be held in the Village Hall starting at 8pm and entrance will cost £5, please note that this is a MEMBERS ONLY event. Tickets are available now at the bar.

As the long summer nights approach can I please take this opportunity to inform all and guests that no glass of any description including bottles (particularly Alco pops and soft drinks) are to be taken onto the village green or picnic table area. Please help us to enforce this by asking for a plastic 'glass' if you want to go onto the village green with a drink that has been purchased in the club.

We look forward to seeing you all on Fete day.

Best Wishes Bob Wells Chairman

Oh well ... There'll be another time.

The birds are back in town, or at least in Bar Hill.

Now is a good time to get out into the countryside and hear and see which spring migrants are about. I've seen and heard White Throat. They tend to fly up into the air above their display bush, and then flutter back down to it.

In the wooded areas with trees, you can hear and see Chiffchaff, another migrant from Africa. Once heard its song won't be forgotten.

Wood Warblers, Willow Warblers, Chiffchaffs etc. all look similar and are often referred to as LBJs ("Little Brown Jobs")

There are also Blackcaps that have flown all the way from Africa back to Bar Hill and have been joined by House Martins, Swifts and Swallows. These will all stay for the nesting season and, along with the Cuckoo seen recently, will then make their way back to Africa.

The highlight of a recent walk around the Nature Reserve was a Nightingale, the first one I've seen and possibly heard. They usually skulk deep inside the thick bushes of Blackthorn etc., but once heard, its really variable, rich song won't be forgotten. It has been likened to a juvenile Robin, but with a redder tail. I only saw it because even they have to move occasionally. With 'binos' trained on the area of bushes where the sound was coming from, I was ready: a movement: and there it was, my 'juvenile Robin' and then, as quick as Linford Christie out of the starting blocks, it was gone, but the sighting stayed in my mind.

I decided to test the well-known fact that Nightingales sing at night, so I waited until it started getting dark, and at 9.45pm Poppy and I went for a walk. A pale moon helped light my way. We made our way to the area where I'd heard it. Yes, I could hear it singing. I moved slowly into position, hear it singing again and pressed 'record' on my tape recorder. I caught about the last three notes of its song, and it went quiet. I stood with my arm out, holding the tape recorder. Poppy was, by now, puzzled as to what I was doing, but sat there patiently. I also stood there patiently, but the Nightingale had decided that 'enough was enough' and flew away to a new location. I decided to locate myself in the direction of home, and so, through the pale moonlight, trudged myself, a bit upset at not getting it on tape, and Poppy, who was enjoying the whole adventure. Meanwhile, somewhere in the Nature Reserve sat a Nightingale who was waiting for peace to be restored again. Oh well ... There'll be another time.

Nick Richardson 07786950684

When daisies pied or violets blue
And lady-smocks all siver-white
And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight
(Shakespeare)

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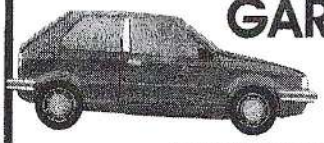
Give the CCC no. written on the post
South Cambridgeshire District Council:
01223 443000
Dog Fouling: 01223 443012
Cambridgeshire County Council
(damaged roads and paths):
01223 717111

GARAGE SERVICES



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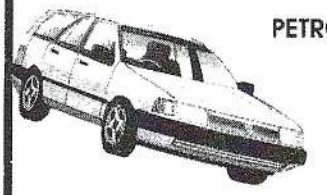
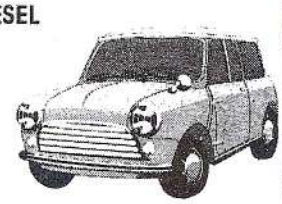


CARS
VANS



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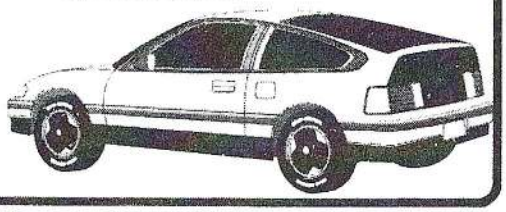

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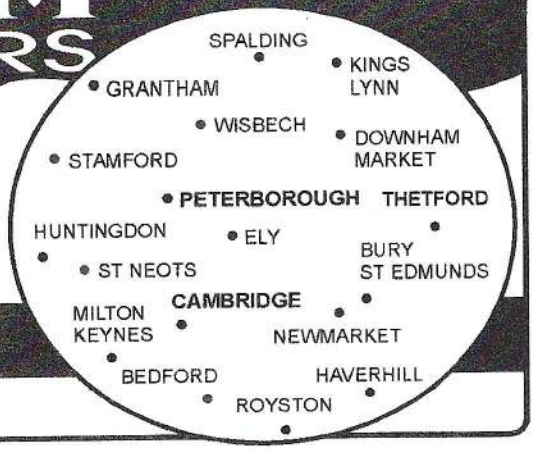

01480 411611
FAX: 01480 431129
30 Stickle Close, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6GT

Bar Hill Pre-School Playgroup

You will find us in the Village Hall Centre on the Village Green, which can easily be reached by footpath or from the perimeter road via The Spinney.

The aim of our community playgroup is to enhance the development of **all** children placed in our care. This is achieved through the various activities we have in our **two rooms**, which provides the educational setting required by OFSTED. Our qualified friendly 'Early Year's Practitioners' - Sonya, Julie and Sylvia supervise our sessions.

WE OFFER YOUR CHILD:

A tailored curriculum, following the Foundation Stage. With the emphasis on "Learning Through Play".

* Individual care and attention made possible by a higher ratio of adults-to-children.
* Fun and friendship with children and adults.
* We monitor your child's progress and keep a confidential record of their development and achievements.
* We recognize parents are the first and most important educators of young children. We therefore offer the opportunity to directly get involved in the playgroup through our parent helper scheme. This offers reduced fees if you choose to help at a session your child attends.

We also offer the Parent/carers the opportunity to become a committee member and be part of the running and decision making of the playgroup.

CURRICULUM

Within the group all children are supported in developing their potential at their own pace. Our Key worker system enables our staff team to ensure a planned curriculum tailored to the needs of each individual child. Using the Foundation Stage Curriculum the child's development is split into 6 areas of learning.

SESSION TIMES

Mon	9.15 - 11.45	
Tues	9.15 - 10.45	Play tots
	12.15 - 02.45	
Wed	9.15 - 11.45	
Thurs	9.15 - 11.45	
Fri	9.15 - 12.45	Rising 5's

LUNCH CLUB

As well as our sessions we offer a Lunch Club for the children every day.

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 11.45 - 12.45

Tues 11.15 - 12.15

The Lunch Club which is partly funded through the New Opportunities Fund, offers the child the opportunity to have their packed lunch at the Pre-School with their friends and our staff team. Lunch Club places can be booked through our administrator

NURSERY VOUCHERS

Under the Nursery Grant Scheme we can offer 5 free sessions when your child is eligible. For further information please contact, Julie Jolley 780445.

SUBSIDISED PLACES

We also offer reduced session rates for Parents/Carers on Income Support/ Working Tax Credit.

Proof of benefit will be asked, to claim discount.

PLAY TOTS

This is run by Sonya on a Tuesday morning and is an excellent way for your tiny tots to get used to the idea of pre-school. The starting age is One Year until Three. It is popular with both parents and childminders and really gives children the chance to enjoy playing and crafts. We want to give parents maximum time to enjoy playing with their children and to have a well deserved break, so no tidying or clearing up duties. The playgroup takes care of that. Tea and coffee is available for adults, and children are given a drink and biscuit as part of the entrance fee. The other good news is that it is "pay on the day" so you don't lose out if you can't make it one week. Come and see us, no need to book. Just turn up on the day.

PLACES

For places ring Sylvia **201670**. Application forms are available at Playgroup, The Library and the foyer of the Village Hall.

Sylvia D.

MINUS 1 TO 5

FAMILY PLAY SESSIONS AT BAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mondays 1.45 -3pm

All families with under 5s are invited to come along and join in with;

Construction, Clap & Sing, Mini gym and **Creative Play** sessions. A good way to get to know new friends in the village and the school!!

Sessions are free of charge, although we do ask for a donation.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more details phone

Melanie Stamp 203554

These sessions are provided by Community Education as part of Family Learning.

COFFEE & KIDS

Got nothing to do on a Thursday morning? why not come down,have a chat and a drink.It is run by Bar Hill childminders. let the children play with our large range of indoor toys and when weather permits,we have a large range of outside toys. It takes place in the meetings room in the church at 10am to 11.30 am. All this costs is £1.50.

If you would like more details phone Lisa on 201160.

Session Times

Monday 9.45 – 11-15 0-5 years
Tuesday 9.45 – 11.15 0-2 years
Wednesday 9.45 – 11.15 0-5 years
Friday 9.45 – 11.15 0-5 years

Tots and Teds

Location

Monday to Wednesday in the Meetings Room. Fridays in the Octagon

Bar Hill Toy Library

About Us

Tots and Teds is a warm, friendly and independent group of parents and carers. We have a volunteer committee who are responsible for the smooth running of Tots and Teds.

We encourage and build the children's confidence and development through play, with mum or dad to give a helping hand when needed.

Toys and Facilities

We have a wide range of toys and activities at each session for the children to enjoy. These include painting, gluing, play dough, messy play, music, sand, prams, ride on toys, books, activity toys, puzzles and much more!

We also have a safe enclosed sunny garden with lots of large outdoor toys.

New to the area?

We always welcome new faces at Tots and Teds. If you would like to meet someone before coming along to a session please phone Kirsten on 200228 who will be happy to meet you and come along with you to introduce you to Tots and Teds.

Diary Dates

Indulgence Evening

Wednesday 25th June 8.00pm in the Church Rooms. Ladies, why not come along and spend an evening pampering yourselves? Just think no children to think about, no children's things to buy, just everything to make you feel special. There will be a wide range of 'indulgences' for you to sample including Reflexology, Body Shop, Virgin Vie, Phoenix Trading, Candles, aromatherapy and much more. Please look out for more information at your Tots session or poster around the village.

Summer Trip

On Wednesday 20th August we are organising a trip to Wicksteed Park We will be leaving from outside the Library at 9.00 am spending the day at Wicksteed, leaving there at 4.00pm. It is approximately a 40-minute trip. Entry to the park is free you just pay for wristbands or tickets to go on the rides, they are suitable for all ages and there is also a large free playground. A leaflet with more details will be at Tots and Teds soon. Each coach ticket will cost £5.00 each, car seats can be used and will stay on the coach. You can also buy ride tickets with your Tesco Clubcard Vouchers - Check details from Tesco Freetime booklet.

Summer Playdays

We will again be holding playdays throughout the summer holidays. The dates and themes are as follows:

Weds 30th July 9.45-11.15- Transport, complete with Bouncy Bus.

Fri 1st Aug 9.45-11.15- Tweenies

Weds 13th Aug -9.45-11.15- Thomas the Tank Engine

Fri 15th Aug 9.45-11.15- Fimbles

Fri 22nd Aug 9.45-11.15- Noddy

Weds 27th Aug 9.45-11.15- Postman Pat

Fri 29th Aug 9.45-11.15- Bill & Ben

Weds 3rd September 11-1 Party time with Mr Marvel(more details to follow).

The Toy library is a fantastic way of providing a diverse range of toys for your children with only a fraction of the cost.

How many parents have bought their child a much requested toy only to find it gathering dust after a couple of weeks (or that their child is more entertained by the box it came in!)? Annual membership of the Toy Library is just £3 per family and you can hire toys from 25p to £1.25 per toy.

Our session is every Tuesday between 2.15pm and 3.45pm in the Church Meetings Room. Refreshments are available and with no obligation to borrow every week, you can just come along and play.

For more information about Toy Library visit our website at i.am/barhilltoylibrary or ring Sarah on **200469**.

Community Paramedic

I would like to send my thanks to everybody in Over, Swavesey, Willingham and Bar Hill that have greeted me with a warm welcome. I have managed to meet a lot of the local community and I hope to be of benefit to you all. I now have close associations with Bar Hill Swavesey and Over Surgeries as well as being based at Willingham

Ree Taylor
Community Paramedic

CESARE & PIPER
Electrical & Property Solutions
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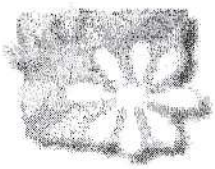

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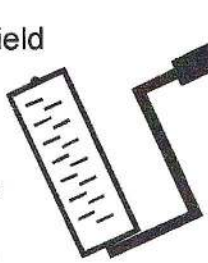

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SESSION TIMES

MON 9 – 11.30
TUES 9-11.30 & 12.30–3.00
WED 9-11.30 & 12.30-3.00
THURS 9-11.30 (Rising Fives)
FRI 9-11.30

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ABOUT US. We are members of the PLA (Pre-School Learning Alliance) and work to the guidelines set out by OFSTED. All areas of learning are covered in our daily sessions; these are Language/Literacy, Maths, Personal/Social Development, Knowledge & Understanding of the world and Creative and Physical Development. We have a keen and dedicated staff and the pre-school is run by parent committee (volunteers!) We encourage parents to be involved in the sessions through our "Parent Help" scheme which not only allows you to see your child interacting in the pre-school setting, but also gives substantially reduced fees!

Our aim is to assist the children's learning through fun activities and play. We use a wide range of toys and equipment, play dough, sand and water play, painting, construction, various types of materials, wood work, puzzles, shape sorting and sequencing boards, large floor mats and dice, a varied selection of books and the P.C. to name but a few.

We are also lucky enough to have our own secure garden, which is well equipped with a climbing frame, slide, play house, balance tyres and plenty of ride on toys to help build strong muscles.

HIRING THE BUILDING
£5 per hour
£10 to hire the kitchen
£10 Ride-on toys
£25 Bouncy Castle
£5 Use of own castle
£45 Everything for 3 hours
Phone Vicky on 205497 to book your party!

During our sessions

We take a break for milk and fruit. Your little one is welcome to bring a drink with them in a labelled cup that will be available for them to have at any time they wish as well as the above.

We celebrate the children's birthdays and you are welcome to bring buns, biscuits etc if you wish. We supply the candles!!

As we are registered with the Nursery Grant Scheme, each child is entitled to **5 FREE SESSIONS** per week from the term before their 4th birthday!

Call Vicky on 205497 for information and to book sessions. Registration forms available at Sunshine, the Library and Under Ones!

DIARY DATES

9th June – Constable Photography here for individual & group photos, including leavers and Sunbeams.

27th June – Friday Night Disco for Children in the Scout Hut.

Times:

6.15-7.15pm for Pre-Schoolers, Reception, Year 1 & 2

£1.50 entry including drink & biscuit.

7.30-9.00pm Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

entry £2.00, Hot dogs & drinks on sale.

13th June - Trivia Pursuit night & BBQ. Tickets £5 each to include food Bring your own drink.

28th June – Bar Hill Fete, we'll be having a sweet stall, the bouncy castle, pick a lollipop game and Teddy tombola so come along and see us and join in the fun.

How to contact us.

For a registration form / prospectus /information

Telephone:-

Sally (01954) 201074

Debs (01480) 831394

Sessions

Monday - Friday Am + Pm

Am Sessions 9.15 - 11.45

Pm Sessions 12.30 - 3.00

Lunch clubs

Mondays and Thursdays

Pre - School sessions

Monday and Wednesday Mornings-in the school.

Mini Acorns

Thursday AM- children from age 2 years - by telephone booking only.

Nursery Education Grant.

This entitles children to five free places from the term before their fourth birthday.

Places for all.

Subsidies / free places may be available, please feel free to speak with us in confidence. Individual cases will be given consideration.

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Putting principles into practice.

Providing a well-planned curriculum enables us to give each child rich and stimulating experiences in which they can explore, plan and learn to make decisions independently.

Our carefully considered environment allows for appropriate intervention by staff, which will engage children in the learning process.
All of our staff hold NNEB or teaching qualifications.

In recognising that all children develop at different rates we provide a caring atmosphere in which everyone feels included, secure and valued.

We respect and understand the important role of parents in their child's early years education.

8 O'Clock Club

The 8 O'Clock Club meets on the first Thursday of each month in the School. We are a women's group and have speakers, demonstrations and outings.

Diary Dates

5 June - Toad Rescue

3 July - Wine & Cheese evening

If you are interested in joining please come along to one of our meetings or phone me on **204171**.

Barbara Page

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Bar Hill Branch

The usual branch meeting was held at the village hall on 24th April with 20 members attending and also enjoying the social after, during which the Treasurer, Neville Clark, won the monthly quiz which was set this month by Tony (sweet-tooth) Shubotham.

I advised members that I am awaiting details from the Poppy Factory for the branch members and friends to arrange a visit which would include a 2-hour tour and refreshments.

Whilst on the subject of poppies, as honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Bar Hill Branch, I should soon be receiving an order list of our branch requirements for wreaths, crosses, posies etc. in readiness for this year's appeal in November (3rd to 8th). However, should any BHN readers, families or friends visit their loved-ones war graves during the year and, prior to the poppy appeal, would like to order anything for their memorials, please contact any of the following officers: Mike Duce (Chairman), Neville Clark (Treasurer) or Terry Barnes (Poppy Appeal Organiser). We should be able to help. Deliveries are usually made within seven days from order placement. Whilst we do not charge for the item, a donation is always welcome which will go straight to the poppy appeal.

This year's branch barbecue is being held at Mary and Tony Shubotham's house on 14th June, and not at Terry and Ann Barnes', as previously stated.

The next branch Meeting is on June 25th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Terry Barnes, 780221

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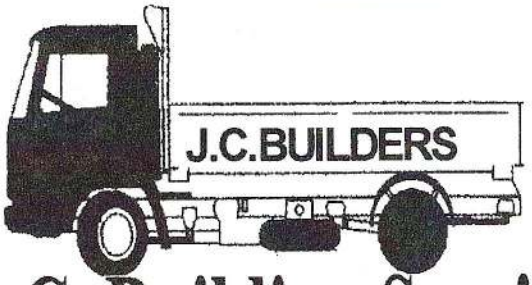

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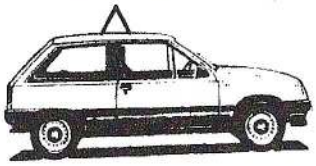

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Annual membership £5, young people under 18 free.

New walkers please contact the secretary first: Paul Hardy, 15 Kentings, Comberton, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 7DT. Telephone: 01223 263232, or email paul@hardy.demon.co.uk

8/6/03 - Saxon Street, Woodditton & Cheveley. Circular walk of about 6 miles through the borders of Suffolk & Cambridgeshire.

22/6/03 - Rifle Range. Walk of about 5½ miles crossing the Rifle Range at Barton (they do stop shooting!) to Coton and back to Comberton by the Whitwell Way.

Summer Break - next walk in September.

Entertainment for a Midsummer's Evening in Longstanton

Come and enjoy the music and vocals of the **Mystery Train Blues Band,** and have a carefree time, at All Saints' Church, Longstanton, on **Saturday 21st June,** starting at 8.00 p.m.

An evening of good time routes music from the Mississippi Delta to the A14. A mixture of Jazz, Blues and Rock. Music that will get your feet tapping in the pews.

Tickets £7.50 each, including a glass of wine/fruit juice and nibbles. Contact Janet Kilborn, *50* High Street, Longstanton (01954 781903) or Ginny Simpson (01954 201947) for tickets. All profits to All Saints' Church Restoration Fund.

See you there.

National Women's Register

We meet once a fortnight on a Monday or Thursday evening at 8pm. We are a lively group of women of varied ages and a cross section of occupations. Newcomers are always welcome, so why not come along and join us?

Diary Dates

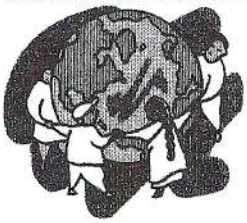
Thursday 12th June **(Note change of date)**: "Sketching in the garden" at 185 The Spinney.

Monday 23rd June: Costume evening at Barton (members only)

Monday 30th June: Discussion "Women's emancipation" at 55 Acorn Avenue.

Thursday 17th July: Visit to Milton Country Park

For more information please don't hesitate to contact Jill Smith on **205453** or Joan Tanton **780529** *Jill Smith*



Ladies International Group

We are a small group who welcome newcomers of all nationalities: British & overseas. Our specialities are informal outings, usually with children in tow, and hopefully, helping people feel at home. Special past events have included strawberry picking, a French meal and Chinese vegetarian meal. Just drop in to our shared meals, once a month.

Please ring and leave your phone number if you would like to come.

Details : Jo Hall ***780304***
or Swee Kim ***200527***

Bar Hill Church Knit and Natter

We are a friendly and welcoming group of ladies who meet on Thursday afternoons at 1.30 - 3.30pm in the Octagon. We do what our name suggests, we knit and natter over tea, coffee and cakes. You are welcome to come along even if you don't knit! We also arrange regular outings to various places, have lunches, and hold regular coffee mornings every month. We are also looking for donations of double knitting wool so that we can continue making blankets which we give to various organisations that need them and bric-a-brac for our stalls. If you would like more information about us then please either call in on Thursdays or contact Sue Kenchington 780260.

Here are the dates of some events coming up;

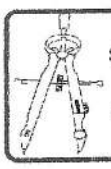
Saturday 21st June - Summer Lunch in the Octagon 12.30pm for 1pm onwards (ring Sue for details)

Saturday 28th June - We will be having a stall at the Village Fete to help raise money for the Holiday Club and Children's work at the Church.

Karen Austen

Allotments Society

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Bar Hill Allotments society is invited to contact Paul Lloyd on 200591



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The event is suitable for people of all ages, specially those who are interested to know about what Air cadets do, but also for anyone who just wants an interesting afternoon out.

The Squadron takes boys and girls from local villages, i.e. Bar Hill, Histon, Swavesey, Girton, Willingham etc. from 13 to 18 years of age. For more information phone 201374.

The Air Training Corps has charity status and depends on the generosity of supporters for most of its activities- the afternoon takings will be used to provide equipment for the cadet, and help cover the operating costs of the local Squadrons.

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Happy Hours

The Recycled Youth Club.

Last month I praised the Committee for delivering the Bar Hill News in the first few days of each month, only to find that the May edition was nearly a fortnight late. I hear that this was due to a breakdown of the printer, and that normal service will be resumed in future.

Lunches. Summer is now with us, and from 2nd June we will be having Salad lunches of various kinds, provided by our Committee Ladies, who just love to work in the kitchen.

Holiday. Our six day holiday started on Sunday 27th. April, when 36 members travelled to our hotel on the sea front at Llandudno. On the Monday we enjoyed a full day in the historic city of Chester, which included a tour around the city by a guide dressed as a Roman Legionaire. On Tuesday we travelled to Bangor where we crossed the Menai Strait to Anglesey before carrying on to Caernarfon. It was here, in the beautiful surroundings of the castle, that Prince Charles was created Prince of Wales in 1969.

On Wednesday we visited the Llechwedd slate caverns at Blaenau Ffestiniog where we toured the spectacular underground world of the Victorian slate miner. Later, passing by the Swallow Falls, we carried on to Betws-y-Coed. Thursday was spent in Llandudno, mainly for shopping, but many of us visited the 'David Bailey Show' in the afternoon, for two hours of memorable music.

Travelling home on Friday, we called for lunch at the visitors centre, at the Josiah Wedgewood pottery factory at Barlaston, near Stoke-on-Trent, Throughout the week the weather was fairly kind to us, and we give our thanks for being well looked after by our driver, Tony of 'Tony's Coaches', and Helen Collins who organised the holiday.

Day Tour. On Wednesday 14th May, some 34 of our members enjoyed a day out to Bury St. Edmunds. It was the start of the towns 'Flower Festival Week', the streets were well decorated and the Abbey Gardens were a wonderful sight.

Talk. On Monday 12th. May, we had a visit from Hillary Connor, a Community Safety Officer with Cambridgeshire Constabulary. She gave us an interesting talk on safety of ourselves and our homes, and showed us a short video. Many thanks Hillary, I hope our members take your advice.

Congratulations. To Lily Neal, who week after week, happens to be one of the first to answer, 'Where and When' in the Down Memory Way column of the Cambridge Town Crier. Well done Lily.

Sickness. I am sorry to report that Joan Platt is still in hospital, as is Joyce Todd, whilst George Wood is at a Rest Centre, having been discharged from hospital. Mirrian Sanders was rushed into hospital on the morning that she should have travelled to Llandudno. but fortunately after a week, she is now at home and on the mend.

Village Fete. Once again Happy Hours will be running the 'Bottle Stall' at the fete on Saturday 28th June, and the Committee will be pleased to receive any prizes from our members. (Bottles only). Many thanks are given to the Chairman and Committee of the Village Social Club for their gencrous donation and support for the Bottle Stall. Also many thanks to Brian and Jean, who will again run the stall for us.

Dennis Holt, 780948.

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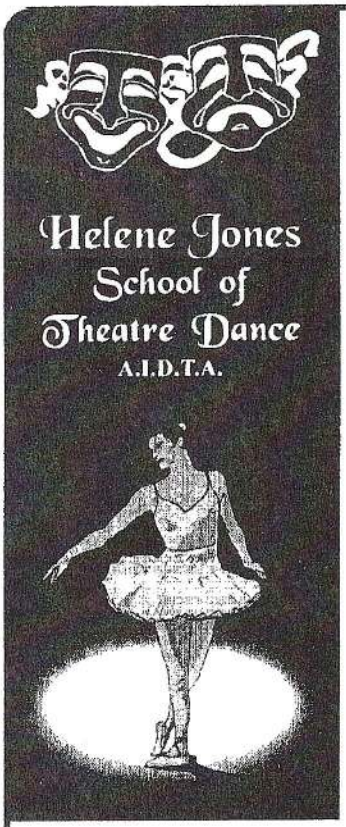

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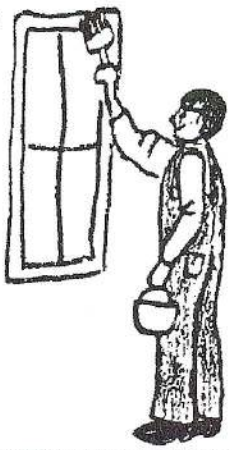

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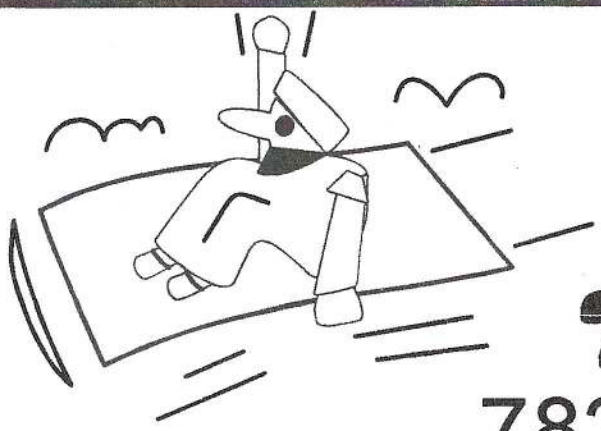

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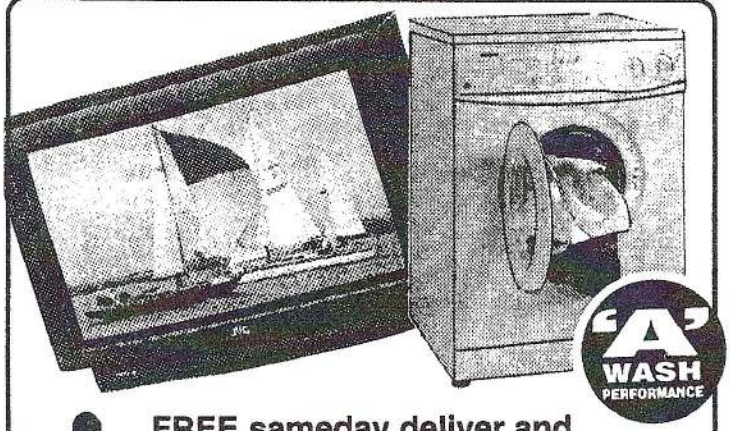

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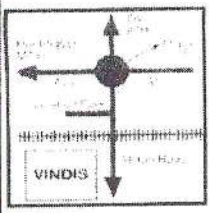

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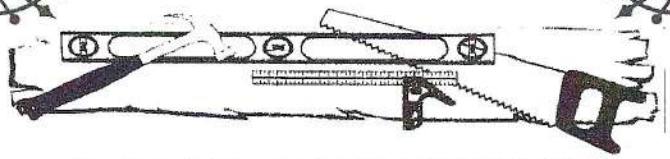

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The PROJECT is now in full use, and the floodlit all weather surface is seen lighting up the sky nearly every evening with training sessions and the "village floodlit 5-a-side league". The Parish Council owned facility, is available for hire by clubs, organisations or private hire for matches or football birthday parties etc. With the summer approaching there is less football training so more opportunity to hire the facility in the evenings.

The "official opening" by Margaret Sellars (Parish Council Chairperson) took place on 29th April. The scorpion 3 v 3 tournament for the Colts players was won by Team "December" made up of Adam Dean, Callum Gawthrope and Joe MacMurry with 32 wins. The mini soccer training session run by Dan Ashworth was also enjoyed.

The village 5-a-side football league is half way through it's fourth phase. If you are interested in entering a team into the league contact Paul Thorby on 781527.

South Cambs are running a four week girl's football training programme starting on 12th May in preparing to enter a team in the Heart of the East games. Some of the girls who have been taking part in the coaching during the winter took part in the Great Shelford Girls Football Festival. They played 4 games winning 3 and loosing 1. The team included Gemma Clare, Gabby Pimental, Hannah Thorp, Rebecca Hewings, Melissa Brown and Eleanor.

The Active Sports Hockey coaching for younger players is now in full swing, and if you want to know more, or are interested in trying out your hockey skills please contact Claire Thorby on 781527. Players from the coaching took part in a tournament in Cambridge and came joint 1st so well done to Dom Gedny, George Honey, Joe Pridgeon, Daniel Thorby and Nick Warner. We now have 30 children between 7 and 11 taking part in the coaching. The plan is for the coaches to form a junior hockey club in the village later this year.

We are hoping to play some ladies hockey in the near future and those in year 7 and above are welcome to join in. Look out for notices on the pitch.

Bowls has been tried out again and we have had three sets of bowls donated to lend to people - thank you for those.

If you wish to find out more about hiring the facility, then contact our Bookings Secretary, Lisa Francis on 201160.

If you have any spare time and can join a rota to help supervise regular pay and play football sessions on the pitch for juniors please give me a ring on 781527.

Paul Thorby, Secretary
Tel:781527

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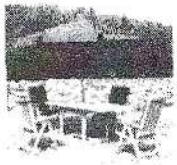

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Neighbourhood Watch

Summer is the time when we work outside either gardening or catching up with D.I.Y. jobs. The tip for the month is: -Remember not to leave tools and ladders in the garden - lock them up safely away, in firmly secured, sheds and garages. Otherwise they could be very helpful to passing burglars who might use them for breaking into your, or your neighbour's, property.

For further information on any security issue, please contact the Community Safety Unit at Parkside Police Station on 01223 358996.

Jill Smith - Village Co-ordinator
Tel: 205453

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Cricket Club

The 1st Team started it's League campaign with a real nail-biter at home to Fen Ditton. Fen Ditton were put into bat in difficult conditions and the Bar Hill bowlers took wickets at regular intervals to restrict them to 114 all out, with Mark Thompson taking career best figures of 4-21. Bar Hill batted solidly but were unable to match the run-rate required and despite Mark Thompson hitting 25 Bar Hill finally ran out of overs just four runs short, on 110 for 8. The following week Bar Hill made their, now customary, early exit from the Cup, this time at the hands of Comberton II. Again Bar Hill managed to bowl out their opponents, this time for 136, with Martin Cullum bagging 3-20. Unfortunately in a repeat of the previous weeks game Bar Hill couldn't score the runs quickly enough and ran out of overs when they were 93 for 7. Ian Basser top-scored with 19.

The 1st Team actually started the season with a friendly against a strong Hardwick side. Hardwick, mainly thanks to their opening batsman who hit 122, rattled up a very impressive 245 for 7. Newcomer Jason Burns was the pick of the Bar Hill bowlers taking 3-37 on debut. Bar Hill couldn't live with the required run-rate and despite a dogged 55 from David Fletcher Bar Hill were skittled out for 114.

The first Friendly Team game of the season was away to Girton. After Girton chose to bat first they reached 50 before they lost their first wicket. That gave them the platform to get after the Bar Hill bowlers and finally posted 185 for 9. Although expensive, Adam Dean was Bar Hill's most prolific bowler, finishing with 3-47. Despite losing an early wicket Mark Thompson (41) and Paul Stimpson (55) were undaunted about chasing the required target. However, once they were both out, the run rate dropped and in order to retrieve the situation Bar Hill took more and more risks. This led to them running out of wickets, falling just 14 runs short on 171.

The Junior Teams fared a lot better than their Senior counterparts with both the Under 15's and Under 13's winning their first League games comfortably.

The Under 15's started first, taking on Over. Bar Hill, batting first, managed to score runs with ease rattling up 143 for 4 at a rate of more than seven an over. Cameron Scott started where he finished off last season by knocking an unbeaten 83 and sharing in a record fifth wicket partnership of 87 with Robert Ruddy. Whatever chance Over had to rescue the game disappeared in the first over when they lost their first two wickets with no runs on the board. They did rally but never looked like getting near the Bar Hill total and finally finished on 86 for 9. Cameron Scott weighed in with 3-6 and Chris Lewney broke another record by becoming the first Junior player to take three catches in a match.

The Under 13's started their campaign at home to NCI on a cold and blustery day. The Bar Hill bowlers (led by captain Craig Driver who took 4-7) made short work of the NCI batting line-up by reducing them to 61 for 7 off of their allotted overs. Bar Hill reached their target with ease with nine wickets and more than a quarter of their overs to spare. Cameron Scott dominated the Bar Hill run-scoring hitting an unbeaten 44.

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April/May Results

27th April	Hardwick	Friendly	Lost by 131 runs
3rd May	Fen Ditton	League	Lost by 4 runs
4th May	Girton	Friendly	Lost by 14 runs
5th May	Over	U15's	Won by 57 runs
11th May	Comberton II	Cup	Lost by 43 runs
14th May	NCI	U13's	Won by 9 wickets

June Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Type	Venue
1st	Willingham	Friendly	Home
5th	Longstanton	U 15's	Home
7th	Girton I	League	Home
8th	Comberton	Friendly	Away
12th	Longstowe	U 13's	Away
14th	Over II	League	Away
15th	Cambridge Jesters	Friendly	Home
18th	NCI	U 13's	Away
19th	Over	U 15's	Home
21st	Willingham I	League	Home
22nd	Willingham	Friendly	Away
23rd	Hardwick	U 15's	Away
25th	Hardwick	U 13's	Home
29th	Bar Hill Church	Friendly	Home

For all the latest news check out the Web Site at www.barhillcricket.org.uk

Composting Club

The inaugural meeting of the club took place on 28th May. We are approached almost daily by potential members and our existing compost bins are already full of composting material. At present we can only accept garden waste on only part of three days per month but as the number of members rises so should the number of days of business on site. Sets of rules may be obtained from Keith Morris, 782441 or advice from Peter Stockton, 204874

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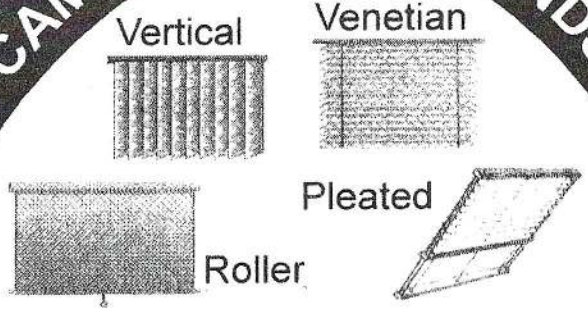

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BAR HILL COLTS F.C.

Hello one and all, and welcome to what is effectively our end of season page. This final page for 2002-03 is predominantly devoted to our presentation evening, on Saturday 10th May 2003.

PRESENTATIONS

All our younger players up to under 11's get a trophy, but in addition, the managersare allowed to choose players who they think deserve a special mention. In team age order.

Under 7's – JUNIORS

All under 7's players got a small trophy.

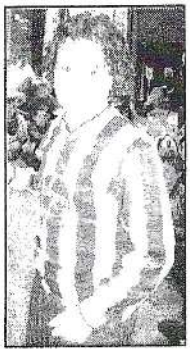
Under 8's - BULLDOGS

Most Improved = **Scott Blayden**
Players Player = **Ben Sloane**
Top Scorer = **William Blake**
Player of the year = **George Leeland**

Under 9's - BULLETS

Supporters Player = **Adam Hart**
Most Improved = **Lee Whybrow**
Managers Player = **Ryan Stevens**

Under 10's - BOMBERS



Managers player = **Josh Lightowler**
Players Player = **Josh Lightowler**, **Ashley Jordan**, and **Jack Clark**
Most Improved = **Gregory Hall**
Special Award = **Gabby Pimintel**

Under 10's - JETS

Player of the year – **Chris Leach**
Most Improved = **Josh Eales**
Players Player = **Chris Leach**

Under 11's – ALLSTARS

Players Player = **Scott Wilson**
Top Scorer = **Scott Wilson**
Parents Player = **Chris Brown**
Team Player = **Ben Gawthrope**

Under 13's - DEMONS

Players Player = **Daniel Ibbertson**
Penalty King = **Lee Gedney**
Managers award = **The Team**

Under 14's - TORNADOS

Most Improved = **Lee Butcher**
Parents Player = **Merik Chadda**
Clubman = **Tom Ward**
Roskel Trophy = **George Brand**
Managers player = **Calum Gawthrope**
Players Player = **Carl Young**

Under 14's - STRIKERS

Players player = **Craig Whiffin**
Managers player = **Jamie Segrave**
Consistency = **Mark Woor**
Clubman = **James Garner**
Top Scorer = **Chris Friend**

Under 15's

Players Player = **David Lay** and **Matthew Ibbertson**
Managers Player = **Paul Stevens**
Most Improved = **John Halls**

LOGO COMPETITION

The winner of our competition was **Ryan Stevens**. Our new badge appears at the top of the page. More pictures on **"www.barhillcolts.freeserve.co.uk"**

Barry Dean 205670

Manager of the Year = **OLLIE WILKIN (U16),** Team of the Year = **U14B (Strikers)**

The Minister's Letter

As I write this, I've just got back from a conference in Northern Germany with Lutheran Pastors from the Church of the North Elbe. We discussed many things, including the legacy of the 2nd world war from our different perspectives. It's probably that which brings my mind to the 6th of June, the anniversary of D-day, the Normandy landings of the allied forces in 1944, still, the biggest seabourne assault the world has ever seen. It was a huge risk in a war that simply had to be won - a war that liberated Germany from a cruel dictator as much as it did France and all the other occupied territories.

I'm no historian, but I'm told that, after D-day, victory for the allied forces was virtually inevitable. The battle was effectively won, no matter how much fighting there was still to go. Many brave servicemen and innocent civilians from both sides were still to lose their lives, but the decisive blow had been struck. War is horrible and the innocent often suffer as much as the guilty. There will be a day when war is no more and the world can live at peace. Until that day we live in hope.

There is a war on right now, and I'm not talking about Al-qaida or Iraq, but an ongoing war of international rebellion against a wise and loving king. We humans have hijacked God's good world and used it for our own selfish ends ... and it suffers and groans under our mismanagement. God has tried negotiation, sending messengers to us to explain his roadmap for peace, but we would have none of it and refused again and again to listen.

So God chose to do something about it - something decisive - something of the order of D-day, a crushing defeat of the powers of evil. He sent Jesus, his only son, as a conciliator ... and we killed him.

If that had been the end ... it would have been God's defeat and disaster for the world. But Easter proclaims that it wasn't the end. Through Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, victory is assured and there *is* hope for the world. We live between D-day and VE-day. So why not join the allies?

'God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. ... We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God'. 2 Corinthians, chapter 5: verses 19 and 20

The Rev'd Paul Rush

Bar Hill Tennis Club

The new tennis season is now well under way. Come and join us at the Courts!!

The Club welcomes all new members and our club membership rates are :

JUNIORS	£25
ADULTS	£30
FAMILY	£70

We play on our own floodlit courts behind the School and welcome players of all abilities. We play socially for fun and to keep fit but also run teams competing in the local league. Our Club nights have started and are held:

Tuesday 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Thursday 7.00pm to 9.00pm

We would be particularly like to encourage young men and women between the ages of 14 to 21 to come and join us as we wish to arrange, if possible, both social and competitive tennis for this age group . If any one is interested please contact our Chairman Geoff Brock on 780846

We have a very active junior section with coaching provided for the youngsters and we have plenty of court hours available for members outside the normal Club nights. Do come along and join us!

The courts are also available for public hire at a cost of £2 per person per hour.

For more details contact :
Geoff Brock (Chairman) 780846
John Suchocki 780461
Nik Handley 782267
Paul Chubbuck 781688

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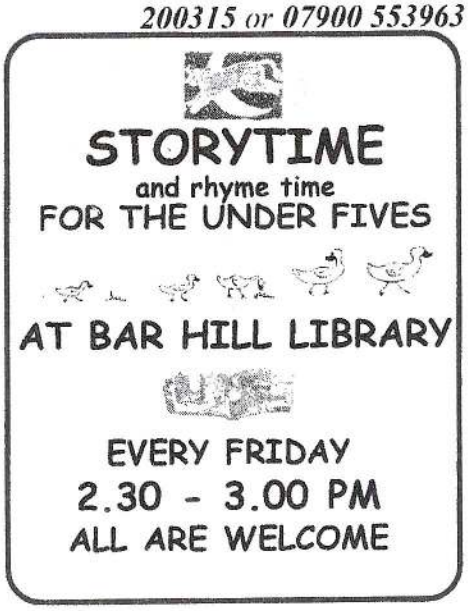

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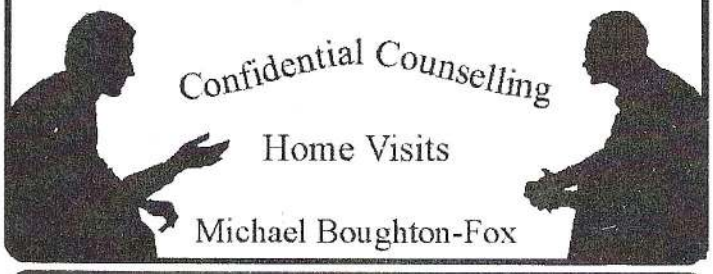

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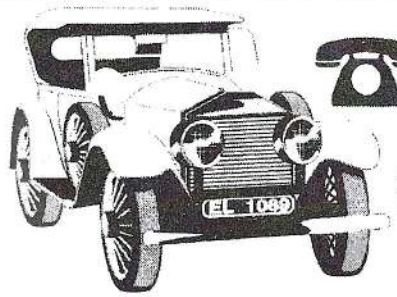

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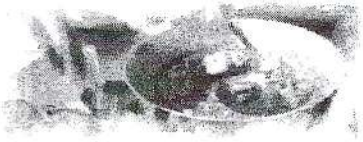

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Church Services

Sun 8th	8.00am Holy Communion	
	10.00am Morning Worship	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison
	6.30pm Evening Prayer (said)	Leader: Rev Gary Renison
Sun 15th	10.00am Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Preacher: Mr Andy Emerton
	6.30pm Informal Worship	Leaders: Julie Gawthrop, Heather Smethurst & Melanie Stamp
Sun 22nd	10.00am Family Service	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison
	6.30pm Quiet Communion	Preacher: Mrs Kate Aylmer
Wednesday 25th	10.00am Mid-week Communion	
Sun 29th	10.00am Morning Worship	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison
	6.30pm Evening worship	Leaders: 'YOBS' (Youth-Orientated Biblestudy Group)

Children's Activities

Stepping Stones - Friday 13th June "I can touch" Activity Time for all babies, toddlers and pre-school children and their parents and carers. From 1.45pm to 2.45pm in the Octagon. Entrance free. Everyone welcome just to turn up for coffee and conversation for the adults and an opportunity for the children to play ending with a songs and story time.

For more information please contact Marianne Langston on 200716.

Bright Sparks and Live Wires

These weekly clubs which meet in the Octagon on a Thursday offer children a chance to discover more about Jesus and the Bible through crafts, games, singing and activities.

Bright Sparks for Reception and school years 1 and 2 from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Live Wires for school years 3, 4, 5 and 6 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

For more information please contact Wendy Arrowsmith on 781381.

On the Move

With summer here the "FOR SALE" and "ON THE MOVE" property signs are very much in evidence in the village.

When a new family moves into your street our WELCOME TEAM would like to welcome them. Linda and Brian Howard will be happy to deliver the "Welcome Booklet" when contacted on 781945.

People to contact:

The Minister: Rev Gary Renison **781629**
The Assistant Minister: Rev Paul Rush **204812**
Church Administrator: Mrs. Claire Thorby (Tel. & Fax **206120**)
Church Secretary: Ms Alison Burling (**789282**)

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs

Hills Road Cambridge (the Catholic Church serving Bar Hill)

Parish Priest: Mgr. Tony Rogers **01223 350787**
Deacons: Revd Robert Joyce, Tony Northrop & Tony Sutton
Local contact: Bunty Waters **201421**

Mass at Bar Hill Church Centre
Masses in the Parish Church in Cambridge

Saturdays: 6pm First Mass of Sunday
Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 8am & 12.15 pm
Tue: 8am & 7.30 pm
Saturdays: 6pm First Mass of Sundays
also 5pm at The Ark, Cambourne
and 6pm at Bar Hill Church Centre

Holydays of Obligation: 8 am, 10 am, 7.30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tue. 6.45 pm (not after Mass)
Sat: 10.30 - 11.15 am, 4.30 - 5.15 pm, 7.00 - 7.45 pm

Details of other services are published in the weekly newsletter which is available at the 6 pm Mass each Saturday - copies are available in the Church Centre.

What's On

Date	Time	Event	Location
June			
Thu 5th	8.00pm	8 O'Clock Club - Toad Rescue	School
Sat 7th	1.00pm	Coffe & Kids Charity Day	Octagon
Sat 7th	12.00noon	Oakington Air Cadets Open Day	Magdelene Close, Lonstanton
Mon 9th		Sunshine Pre-school photo session	SPARC
Thu 12th	8.00pm	NWR "Sketching in the garden"	185 The Spinney
Fri 13th	1.45pm	Stepping Stones "I can Touch"	Octagon
Fri 13th		Trivia Pursuit & BBQ evening	SPARC
Fri 13th		Karen Kemp (Female Vocalist)	Social Club at Village Hall
Sat 14th		Monthly Draw	Social Club at Village Hall
Sat 21st	12.30pm	Knit & Natter Summer Lunch	Octagon (Tel Sue 780260)
Sat 21st	1.00pm	School Fun Day	School
Sat 21st	8.00pm	Mystery Train Blues Band	All Saints Church Longstanton
Wed 25th	8.00pm	Indulgence Evening (Tots 'n' Teds)	Church rooms
Wed 25th	7.30pm	Royal British Legion	Village Hall
Fri 27th	6.15pm	Children's Disco (Pre-school, reception& years 1-2)	Scout Hut
Fri 27th	7.30pm	Children's Disco (years 3-6)	Scout Hut
Sat 28th	2.00pm	Residents' Association Village Fete	Village Green & Social Club
Sat 28th	8.00pm	60s Night & Barbecue (Running On Empty)	Village Hall
Sat 28th		Monthly Draw	Social Club at Village Hall
Mon 30th	8.00pm	NWR Discussion "Women's Emancipation"	55 Acorn Avenue
July			
Thu 17th	8.00pm	NWR Visit to Milton Country Park	
Fri 25th		Angel Morgan (Female soloist)	Social Club at Village Hall
Wed 20th	9.00am	Tots 'n' Teds Summer Trip to Wicksteed Park	

From your County Councillor

As I write this the row over education funding rumbles on. The government accuses Local Education Authorities of withholding the money, while the LEA's respond by blaming the government. Education funding, like all local government funding is extremely complicated. Every autumn the government gives a grant to local authorities (approximately 30% of the total funding requirement for a local authority) but at the same time announces indicative figures of what it thinks a local authority should spend in particular areas and the increases over the previous year. However, although the figures are only indicative, if we don't pass on the entire increase for schools to schools, then we face our budget being called in by the Department for Education. This is known in the trade as passporting.

This year has been made more complicated by the new system of local government finance and that fact that while we finally won our case for Area Cost Adjustment, the government withheld some £10m of our grant on the grounds that we couldn't possibly spend it all at once! Rather like a child who refuses to admit he is wrong, Education Secretary Charles Clark last week published figures which aimed to justify his case.

As far as Cambridgeshire is concerned the government admits that we have passported 113% of the schools block, but at the same time claims that we have withheld some £6m of money aimed for schools, even I can see that something doesn't add up here. I have heard of one authority, which has been brought to task by the DfEE for not spending a million pounds of earmarked funds. In typical DfEE style an explanation was demanded, well said the LEA, which shall remain nameless, we are still waiting for DfEE approval to spend it! Just to rub salt in the wounds it has now been reported that the Department for Education itself is not spending its own budget, it was underspent by some £1bn. Now if this had gone to where it was really needed, schools throughout the country would not be faced with the prospect of making staff redundant and children would not be losing out on their education.

I am always available for consultation, either in person or by phone, letter or e-mail. I can be reached at the address or telephone number below.

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